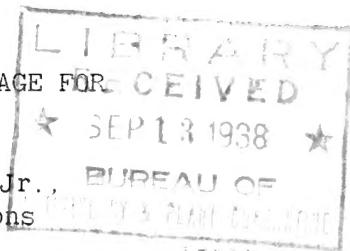


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United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Entomology and Plant QuarantineAN IMPROVED AND INEXPENSIVE OVIPOSITION CAGE FOR
INSECTARY USEBy Oliver I. Snapp and J. R. Thomson, Jr.,
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Glass battery jars have been used for many years as oviposition cages for insects attacking fruit and other crops. The greatest disadvantage of the glass cage is the increase in humidity, which is almost always higher within the cage than outside. The temperatures within the cages also may be different from those on the outside. During the last 8 years the writers have used screen-wire cages, which they have found to be superior to the old-type cage, for oviposition and other records in connection with a study of the life history and habits of the peach borer (Conopia exitiosa (Say)). In the screen-wire cages the insects are under conditions that are much more nearly normal and that correspond more closely to the fluctuating weather outside. As these new cages are simple, light, easily constructed, inexpensive, and a distinct improvement over the type generally used for oviposition records, their construction is explained for the benefit of any investigators who may be interested.

Construction of Cage

The screen-wire oviposition cage for insectary use (fig. 1) is made from two pieces of 16-mesh screen wire, the dimensions of which are 22 by $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches and $7\frac{1}{4}$ by $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches. A cylinder is first made with the larger piece, the seam of which has a 2-inch lap and is fastened together with five short lengths of small copper wire. The smaller piece of screen wire is then fastened to the cylinder as a top by first removing two or three of the horizontal wires of the cylinder and pushing the ends of the vertical ones through the screen-wire top, after which the ends are bent over to hold the top in place. In addition to this, the top is fastened by four short copper wires. The dimensions of the finished screen-wire oviposition cage for insectary use are as follows: Height, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches; circumference, 20 inches; top of cage, $7\frac{1}{2}$ by $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Use of Cages

Figure 2 illustrates the use of the insectary oviposition cage for peach borer egg-laying records. The cage is held in place on a table with four No. 16 rubber bands looped together, the ends of which are caught under two nails with heads bent away from the cage. The eggs are deposited on pieces of white blotting paper that are placed on top of the table under the wire oviposition cages. These cages will also be found satisfactory for other records under insectary conditions, and for pupation and adult emergence records of moths, in which case the cage is placed on the soil.

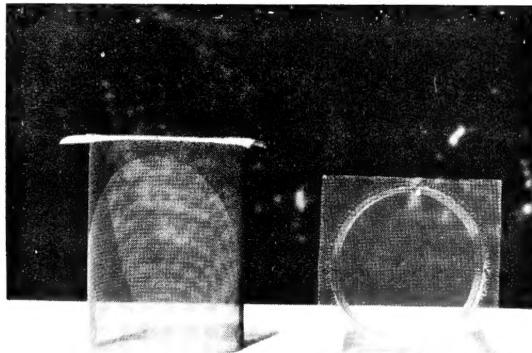


Figure 1.--Screen-wire oviposition cages that are simple, light, easily constructed, inexpensive, and a distinct improvement over the type of cage usually used for oviposition records.



Figure 2.--Screen-wire oviposition cages as set up in an insectary.

